(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) Employees Joint Forum protested against modernisation and development of Delhi and Mumbai airports through Joint Venture route and organized agitation during the period 30.01.2006 to 03.02.2006.

(c) The matter has been settled amicably and Government has constituted a tripartite Committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, AAI and AAI Employees' Joint Forum to look into the issues and proposals of modernising airports by AAI and Employees related issues including job security.

Development of Mangalore Airport

2264. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified Mangalore (Bajpe) airport for developmnt under Phase-I of the non-metro airports development programme;

(b) whether the Expression of Interest (EoI) for architectural design has been received from bidders and evaluated for the project; and

(c) by when the work on development is likely to be started by AAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The development work at Mangalore airport is proposed to be commenced in 2006-07.

Facilities at overseas IA offices

2265. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to improve the passenger amenties at IA offices/counters at UK, USA and other major countries;

(b) whether Government have recieved complaints/suggestions in this regard form some Members of Parliament in 2005; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Indian Airlines does not operate to UK and USA. As regrads other foreign destinations, Indian Airlines has appointed Passenger Sales Agents and General Sales Agents at number of online and offline stations for passenger facilitation and has also entered into interline agreement with number of airlines through whom passengers can buy tickets. Besides the above, Indian Airlines has an agreement with Hahn Air for issuance of tickets on its sectors through Hahn Air's various sales outlets spread all over the world.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Theft cases at airports

†2266. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is threat to security as a result of increasing incidents of theft at various airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action being taken by Government to tackle the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In facts there has been decrease of theft cases at the airports over the years.

(c) Action taken to tackle the problem of theft cases *inter-alia* inculde guarding of all the access gates by Airports Security Unit on round the clock basis, thorough screening of vehicles and persons entering/exiting the operational area, provision of watch tower along the parameter wall manned by security personal, proper implementation of token system for casual labours, installation of Closed Circuit TV cameras at important locations in the airports, surveillence on inside/outside the terminal building, deployment of local police on the cityside of the airport and deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at selected airports.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.